

Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, 13 October 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia

Agenda

1:02 p.m. Meeting called to order by Secretary Thomasson

- Meeting Overview
- Meeting Minutes Approval and Adoption of Agenda
 - Inaugural Meeting Minutes and Agenda (with one amendment) unanimously adopted.
 - Amanda Goehring was identified as the meeting recorder.
- Introductions of Board Members
- Board Service Review
 - Suzanne Holland reviewed main points about Board service and the mission of the Board according to statute.
- Outreach Update
 - Rose Minor provided an update on her activities as Director of LGBTQ Outreach.
 - She explained that the Governor's Office was using Proclamations to bring attention to the LGBTQ+ community outside of June. Recent proclamations included Non-Binary People's Day and Bi Awareness Week, and she welcomed suggestions for additions to the calendar.
 - She is looking for ideas we have of how she can support the Board. Also, she maintains lists she uses to send out a newsletter and other notifications, and any organizations to reach out to or events would be welcome.
 - It is important to take an intersectional approach to engagement. For instance, this year's observance of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month replaced what previously had been a more binary gendered approach and recognized that it is not just men who need to be aware of prostate cancer.
 - It might also make sense to tie in with the Governor's priorities, e.g. protections for trans students or, from the previous administration, food insecurity.
 - **Q: Is there a limit on the number of proclamations that can be issued in a given year?**
A: No.

- **Q: What might be something we can prioritize over the next 3 months as the Northam administration comes to an end?**
A: That's hard to answer at this moment, especially because it's hard to know what we don't know. We are always looking for ideas.
- **Q: Can we suggest resolutions, e.g. directing data collection?**
A: That can be recommended to the Governor. Some things the Administration might be able to do internally, others may need legislation.
- **Q: Would it be appropriate to make recommendations for the State of the Commonwealth Address, e.g. to repeal the Marshall-Newman Amendment?**
A: That would be a recommendation the Board would make to the Governor.
- **Q: How long does it take to turn around a Proclamation? To organize a town hall?**
A: A proclamation can be turned around fairly quickly. Any town hall would be the Board's event, and so it would depend on the pace the Board could reasonably go at. Rose's role would be to publicize the event for the Board.
- **Committee Structure**
 - Board members broke out into two groups in the room, plus the online participants in the chat room, to discuss what standing committees the Board should establish.
 - Mr. Boudreaux presented the conclusion of his group, which was for 4 committees: Safety, Health, Housing and Workforce and Education. One major rationale for this structure was to avoid diluting the committees with 4 committees of five people, rather than five committees of 4, especially considering a quorum for either would be 3 people.
 - The other in-room group reached a similar conclusion, with the addition of a Community Visibility and Engagement Committee. Owing to the mathematical realities brought up by the first group, there was an idea that one member of each of the four issue groups might be tasked to be part of an Engagement committee. There was an idea from the first group that each committee could have in addition to a Chair and Secretary a designated Engagement Officer.
 - Due to the newness of the Board and also the dearth of data pertaining specifically to the LGBTQ+ community, Mr. Keeling stated that an Engagement committee on that might be needed in the first year. Mr. Boudreaux pointed out that might be more appropriate as an ad hoc committee, similarly to how an ad hoc committee had been created for the African American Advisory Board's community survey.
 - Mx. Mason, drawing on a concern of Ms. Keller's, suggested an Infrastructure committee rather than a Housing committee, to encompass also transportation and public services. Such a name could potentially be unclear to the public, however, so ultimately a compromise of "Housing and Infrastructure Committee" was proposed by Mx. Goehring.
 - The call in members' discussion was not organized around issues, and Ms. BruMar proposed a set of three committees focused on data collection, education (to the

government), and visibility. Dr. Motley also emphasized equity and accountability, especially internally to the LGBTQ+ community.

- In response to the strong desire for a Community Visibility, Equity, and Engagement Committee, there was a discussion of perhaps grouping two of the issues together on one committee to remain at four committees. Board members were passionate, however, that the four issues were important and large enough to require their own committees. The Motion for an Engagement Committee failed on a vote.
- The final approved Standing Committees are:
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Housing & Infrastructure
 - Education & Workforce
- Presentation from Ted Heck
 - Ted Heck from the Virginia Department of Health gave his background starting on the VDH HIV prevention hotline to his current position also as Trans Health Services Specialist. He provided an overview of Transgender health services in Virginia, including the [Trans Resource and Referral List](#), Clinician's Brochure, and Virginia Anti-Violence Project. He had also been involved in the [Trans Health Initiative Study \(THIS\)](#), which is currently being retooled in preparation for a second round.
 - Mr. Heck pointed out that healthcare access was not just about physicians, but also insurance companies, and that there was a great disparity in access to care depending on which insurance provider an individual had coverage under.
 - He noted that issues around housing were not only around permanent residences, but also access to shelters and treatment facilities. In particular, finding accepting treatment facilities could be problematic.
 - Finally, he made the point that one thing we know from the data is that people with intersectional identities consistently have worse health outcomes.
 - **Q: If you could wave a magic wand, what would you do to make things better two years from now?**
A: 1) Go through the agency that regulates health insurance to ensure better/more consistent coverage. 2) Encourage medical schools to improve training.
 - **Q: In your opinion, is there not enough data on trans health, or is it that the data we have is in too many disparate places and has not been properly collated?**
A: There is starting to be more data available, but one major gap is that there is nothing longitudinal. A few studies such as [All of Us](#) and [The Pride Study](#) are attempting to work on that, but they are both national-level studies. There is not much specific to Virginia.

There is also a problem with the surveys we do have either not asking the right questions or not being administered correctly. For instance, data being collected during HIV testing might not be reliable because providers would not actually ask the questions of the patient but rather assume they knew the answers and fill in the forms based on those assumptions. Both model questions and training on how to administer the questionnaires correctly could help solve this problem.

- Public Comment
 - Fallon Fox, student at Mountain Empire Community College, expressed support and gratitude for the Board's work.
- Next Steps
 - Of the two possible meeting dates with the Governor and Cabinet, 26 October was determined to be the better date.
 - As a recommendation to make to the Governor, the Board determined to support repeal of the Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, which defines marriage as solely between one man and one woman.
 - Mx. Mason requested the Board revisit the Procedures for Virginia Advisory Board Executive Officer Elections, which had been adopted at the previous meeting, due to its inclusion of gendered language, e.g. "chairman." The Board unanimously voted to amend the Procedures to remove the gendered language, but since such language had been included to mirror the statute, and also since the Procedures were used by other Boards, it was recognized as a larger issue the Board might need to address.

Meeting adjourned for Board Photo

Action Items

1. Submit biography and headshots for Board Website if you have not already done so
2. Submit nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary
3. Review Minutes from previous meeting

Next Meeting Agenda

Vote to elect Board leadership. Date for next meeting Wednesday, November 10.

The Board will also have a meeting to present recommendations to Governor Northam and the Cabinet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26.

Attendees

Board Members:

- Matt Banfield (he/him)
- Michael Berlucchi (he/him)
- Demas Boudreaux (he/him)
- Charley Burton (he/him)
- Jonathan Dromgoole (he/him)
- Amanda Goehring (ze/hir)
- Kevin Han (he/him)
- Aurora Higgs (she/her or they/them)
- Rob Keeling (he/him)
- Joanna Keller (she/her)
- Kyle Mason (they/them)
- Bryan Price (he/him)
- Patty Smith (she/her)
- Michael Thorne-Begland (he/him)
- Lisa Turner (she/her)

By telephone:

- Evelyn BruMar (she/her)
- Stephanie Merlo (she/her)
- Monica Motley (she/her or they/them)
- Jes Simmons (she/her)

Ex-officio members:

- Kelly Thomasson (she/her), Secretary of the Commonwealth

Not in attendance:

- *Tracy Monegain (she/her)*
- *Karen Mullen McPhail (she/her)*

Speakers:

- Rose Minor (she/her), Special Assistant for Community Engagement and Director of LGBTQ+ Outreach
- Ted Heck (he/him), HIV Prevention Contract Monitor and Transgender Health Services Specialist, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Disease Prevention

Staff Members:

- Traci DeShazor (she/her), Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth and Director of African American Outreach

- Suzanne Holland (she/her), Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration and Director of Women's Outreach
- Justin Bell (he/him), Assistant Attorney General and Board Counsel

Guests:

- Maribel Catañeda (she/her), Director of Appointments and Director of Latino Outreach
- Fallon Fox, Student at Mountain Empire Community College

Motions

| Motion to Approve Agenda, as Amended, and to Adopt Minutes | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Moved: Demas Boudreaux</i> | <i>Seconded: Joanna Keller</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| Motion to Establish Safety Committee | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Moved: Joanna Keller</i> | <i>Seconded: Michael Thorne-Begland</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| Motion to Establish Health Committee | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Moved: Joanna Keller</i> | <i>Seconded: Kyle Mason</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| Motion to Establish Housing and Infrastructure Committee | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Moved: Demas Boudreaux</i> | <i>Seconded: Kyle Mason</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| Motion to Establish Community Visibility, Equity and Engagement Committee | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Moved: Evelyn BruMar</i> | <i>Seconded: Monica Motley</i> | |
| Yeas: 3 | Nays: 13 | Abstentions: 3 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Motion to Establish Education and Workforce Committee | | |
| <i>Moved: Joanna Keller</i> | <i>Seconded: Matt Banfield</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Motion to Support and Recommend Repeal of Marshall-Newman Amendment | | |
| <i>Moved: Lisa Turner</i> | <i>Seconded: Aurora Higgs</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Motion to Amend Procedures for Virginia Advisory Board Executive Officer Elections to Remove Gendered Language | | |
| <i>Moved: Kyle Mason</i> | <i>Seconded: Aurora Higgs</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Motion to Adjourn | | |
| <i>Moved: Aurora Higgs</i> | <i>Seconded: Joanna Keller</i> | |
| Yeas: 19 | Nays: 0 | Abstentions: 0 |